

1       What is claimed is:

2       1. An assembly for removably supporting cargo on the exterior  
3            of a vehicle, said assembly comprising:  
4            a) a base connected to a hitch structure on the vehicle  
5                    and including a support assembly secured to said base,  
6            b) a hoist including a winch and a cable connected in  
7                    driven relation to said winch, said cable connected  
8                    directly to the cargo,  
9            c) said hoist assembly further including a stanchion and  
10                    a boom, said boom adjustably positionable a spaced  
11                    distance from said stanchion,  
12            d) said boom and said stanchion collectively and at least  
13                    partially defining a path of travel of said cable  
14                    between said winch and the cargo,  
15            e) said support assembly comprising a load support  
16                    portion disposed in interconnected relation to the  
17                    hitch structure, and  
18            f) said spaced distance of said boom relative to said  
19                    stanchion determinative of a proximity of the cargo  
20                    relative to said load support portion.

21       2. An assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said cable is  
22            connected to said cargo at a predetermined connecting  
23            point, said connecting point disposed in substantially  
24            aligned relation to a center of gravity of the cargo.

25       3. An assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said boom is  
26            adjustably positionable relative to the cargo.

- 1       4. An assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said support
- 2           assembly further comprises a stanchion support portion
- 3           secured to said base in interconnected relation to the
- 4           hitch structure on the vehicle.
- 5        5. An assembly as recited in claim 4 wherein said load support
- 6           portion and said stanchion support portion are fixedly
- 7           secured to said base and removable with said base from the
- 8           hitch structure.
- 9        6. An assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said load support
- 10           portion comprises at least one retaining member secured in
- 11           outwardly spaced relation to a remainder of said support
- 12           assembly, said retaining member disposed and structured to
- 13           removably retain the cargo on said support assembly.
- 14       7. An assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said boom
- 15           comprises an arm segment movably connected to a remainder
- 16           of said boom and longitudinally positionable relative
- 17           thereto so as to selectively vary the length of said boom
- 18           and the position of the cargo relative to said support
- 19           assembly at least when the cargo is not retained on said
- 20           support assembly.
- 21       8. An assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said support
- 22           assembly is structured to concurrently support the cargo
- 23           and the hoist assembly on the exterior of the vehicle in
- 24           interconnected relation to the hitch structure.
- 25       9. An assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said load support
- 26           portion is secured to said base and structured to removably

1 support the cargo on the vehicle.

2 10. An assembly as recited in claim 9 wherein said boom is  
3 selectively positionable relative to said support assembly  
4 so as to facilitate retaining engagement of the cargo with  
5 said load support portion as the cargo is lifted from a  
6 supporting surface by said cable.

7 11. An assembly as recited in claim 10 wherein said load  
8 support portion comprises a mounting plate and at least one  
9 retaining member secured to said mounting plate and  
10 disposed in outwardly spaced relation thereto, said  
11 mounting plate and said retaining member cooperatively  
12 structured and disposed to removably support the cargo on  
13 said support assembly.

14 12. An assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein said load  
15 support portion and said stanchion support portion are  
16 fixedly secured to said base and concurrently removable  
17 with said base from the hitch structure.

18 13. An assembly for removably supporting cargo on an exterior  
19 of a vehicle, said assembly comprising:

20 a) a base connected to a hitch structure on the vehicle  
21 and including a support assembly secured to said base,  
22 b) said hoist including a winch and a cable connected in  
23 driven relation to said winch,  
24 c) a load comprising a mobile carrier structured to  
25 support the cargo thereon,  
26 d) said hoist assembly further including a boom extending

1                   outwardly from said support assembly,  
2                   e)    said boom at least partially defining a path of travel  
3                   of said cable between said winch and said load,  
4                   f)    said support assembly including a load support portion  
5                   disposed in an inclined orientation and structured to  
6                   support said mobile carrier in a substantially  
7                   corresponding inclined orientation on the exterior of  
8                   the vehicle in interconnected relation to the hitch  
9                   structure, and  
10                  g)    said cable connected to said mobile carrier at a  
11                  predetermined location thereon which facilitates  
12                  support of said load in said corresponding inclined  
13                  orientation when said mobile carrier is lifted from a  
14                  supporting surface.

15                14. An assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein said boom is  
16                  adjustably positionable relative to said support assembly.  
17                15. An assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein said load  
18                  support portion is secured to said base in interconnected  
19                  relation to the hitch structure on the vehicle.  
20                16. An assembly as recited in claim 15 wherein said load  
21                  support portion is fixedly secured to said base and  
22                  removable with said base from the hitch structure.  
23                17. An assembly as recited in claim 15 wherein said load  
24                  support portion comprises at least one retaining member  
25                  extending outwardly therefrom in retaining relation to said  
26                  mobile carrier, said retaining member cooperatively

disposed and structured to removably retain said mobile carrier in said corresponding inclined orientation.

18. An assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said load support portion comprises a guide assembly disposable in at least partially supporting engagement with said mobile carrier.

19. An assembly as recited in claim 18 wherein said guide assembly is disposed in said inclined orientation and is structured to engage said mobile carrier upon activation of said winch as said load is lifted from a supporting surface into retaining engagement with said load support portion.

20. An assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein said boom is selectively positionable relative to said support assembly so as to facilitate interruptive, slidable engagement of said guide assembly with said mobile carrier as said load is lifted from a supporting surface into retaining engagement with said load support portion by said cable.

21. An assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein said boom comprises an arm segment movably connected to a remainder of said boom and longitudinally positionable relative thereto so as to selectively vary a position of said boom and said path of travel of said cable relative to said load and said load support portion.

22. An assembly for removably supporting cargo on an exterior of a vehicle, said assembly comprising:

a) a base connected to a hitch structure on the vehicle

1 and including a support assembly secured to said base,

2 b) a hoist including a winch and a cable connected in  
3 driven relation to said winch,

4 c) said hoist further including a boom extending  
5 outwardly from said support assembly and at least  
6 partially defining a path of travel of said cable  
7 between said winch and the cargo,

8 d) said support assembly including a load support portion  
9 disposed and structured to support cargo in a  
10 predetermined orientation on the exterior of the  
11 vehicle in interconnected relation to the hitch  
12 structure, and

13 e) said cable connected in supporting relation to the  
14 cargo at a location which facilitates disposition of  
15 said cargo in said predetermined orientation when the  
16 cargo is lifted from a supporting surface upon  
17 activation of said winch.

18 23. An assembly as recited in claim 22 further comprising a  
19 load including a mobile carrier structured to support the  
20 cargo thereon, said load support portion disposed in an  
21 inclined orientation substantially defining said  
22 predetermined orientation of the cargo.

23 24. An assembly as recited in claim 23 wherein said load  
24 support portion comprises a guide assembly disposed in said  
25 inclined orientation and structured to movably and at least  
26 partially support said mobile carrier upon activation of

1           said winch as said load is lifted from a supporting surface  
2           into retaining engagement with said load support portion.

3       25. An assembly as recited in claim 22 wherein said hoist  
4           further includes a stanchion connected to said boom, said  
5           boom and said stanchion collectively and at least partially  
6           defining said path of travel of said cable connected  
7           directly to the cargo at a location thereon which  
8           facilitates orientation of said cable in a substantially  
9           aligned relation to a center of gravity of the cargo, at  
10           least when said cargo is not supported on said support  
11           assembly.

12       26. An assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said support  
13           assembly comprises a cargo engaging portion having at least  
14           one retaining member secured in outwardly spaced relation  
15           to a remainder of said support assembly, said retaining  
16           member disposed and structured to removably retain the  
17           cargo on said support assembly.

18       27. An assembly as recited in claim 26 wherein said load  
19           support portion further comprises a cargo support portion  
20           secured to said base and structured to removably support  
21           the cargo on the vehicle.

22       28. An assembly as recited in claim 22 wherein said boom  
23           comprises an arm segment movably connected to a remainder  
24           of said boom and longitudinally positionable relative  
25           thereto so as to selectively vary the length of said boom  
26           and the position of said cable and the cargo relative to

1                   said support assembly.